

the five other bills that are out of committee could also get to the floor before October, and what could happen with the Interior bill which would obviously be the most important bill as it relates to this topic of energy that we just discussed.

I would yield.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I agree with the Speaker that it is our intention to move the Defense bill. We think that is critically important to do. We think it's critically important to move the other bills as well.

I was having a discussion with the chairman of the Appropriations Committee during the last vote. I asked him about his discussions with Mr. LEWIS to try to facilitate the consideration of appropriation bills. My belief is that they hadn't made as much progress as he had hoped to make, but with relation to the other bills, I will just reiterate what I have said, that I continue to talk to Mr. OBEY about my hope that we can find a way to move appropriation bills to the floor if that is possible. But we have not gotten any scheduled at this point. We do intend to move certainly the Defense bill. The Speaker was accurate on that.

Mr. BLUNT. I thank the gentleman for that. And the Defense bill certainly is critical, as all these bills are. And obviously I share the sense that it's a primary responsibility of the Federal Government to defend the country. But the Homeland Security bill, the Military Construction and Veterans bill also are particularly important components of that very element of what we do, and other bills that are out such as the Financial Services bill, all the discussions we're having and will have about housing over the next few days, but another bill where if we knew that the regulators were funded and how they were funded and the other things that happened, that is a helpful thing to know.

I think that is all the questions I have for today, and I would yield back.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JULY 21, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next; and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 22, for morning-hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

HONORING ARMY MAJOR GENERAL ANTHONY CUCOLO

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia, underwent a change of command. As a member of the Armed Services Committee whose State is home to Fort Stewart, I rise today to thank Major General Rick Lynch on a job well done as he moves on to Fort Hood, Texas, and to congratulate Major General Tony Cucolo as he takes command of the 3rd ID.

This is a command of monumental importance in the United States Army, Mr. Speaker. The 3rd Infantry Division has one of the most successful combat records of any United States Army division. It was the first conventional U.S. unit to enter Baghdad in 2003 and the first division to actually serve three tours in Iraq.

Major General Lynch commanded the division on this most recent tour in Iraq, during which time we saw undeniable progress. Major General Cucolo has large boots to fill. But I have every confidence that he is the right man for the job.

Having served as brigade commander at Fort Stewart from 1999 to 2001, he is returning to familiar turf. He returns to Fort Stewart from the Pentagon, where he served as the Army's chief of public affairs for the past 2 years.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me, and all of our colleagues, in honoring these two fine soldiers for their service to our Nation.

HONORING J. FRED PATTON FOR HIS GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of J. Fred Patton, a gracious contributor to the Third District of Arkansas, who passed away earlier this week.

For more than 101 years, Mr. Patton showed passion for Arkansas through his compassion for neighbors, community service and education that he provided for future Arkansans. He authored "The History of Fort Smith," now in its seventh edition, and taught Sunday school for more than six decades.

Throughout his life, Mr. Patton received numerous professional, civic and humanitarian awards, including the honor of being selected as one of 10 outstanding citizens in western Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma in 1989. I had

the privilege to meet and get to know Fred over the years, and he truly was an amazing person who wanted the best for his community.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Patton certainly will be missed. However, his legacy will live on for generations to come. I thank my colleagues for the opportunity to celebrate and honor the life of this wonderful man.

□ 1530

BRINGING DOWN ENERGY PRICES

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to come down to the floor at the end of the week to just say if we really want to be sincere about bringing down the price of energy, we need to have an all-of-the-above strategy.

That is opening up the Outer Continental Shelf which we legislatively limited 25 years. That is bringing on wind and solar. We can use the revenues from opening the OCS to build wind and solar operations. We can use our vast resources of coal, 250 years worth of supply in the Illinois coal basin alone, turning that into liquid fuels creating American jobs. We also can continue to expand the use of biofuels.

The great thing about the Republican proposal is that it is all of the above. We are not willing to say "no" to everything. We want everything to come on board, to bring on more supply and lower the cost of liquid fuel for the cost of electricity, and we want these fuels and these commodities to compete. In the competition, we will have lower-cost fuel and energy so we can have a manufacturing base left in the United States of America.

ENERGY POLICIES

(Mr. MCCOTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, earlier today we saw a picture of the President of the United States with foreign dignitaries. We today see the Speaker of the House with a foreign dignitary. We do not begrudge either of them on this side of the aisle. We have to have responsible foreign relations. The only difference is we do not use pictures to explain America's energy policy or put forward conspiracy theories as to why you are feeling the pain at the pump.

Let us be realistic about this. We need more American oil production, commonsense conservation, and free market innovations. And no amount of political cant or hot air is going to do anything except keep your prices at the pump to the point where your family budget shrinks.